

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243076

FOLLOWING REPEAT LIMA 9040 ACTION SECSTATE 24 OCT 74

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PE

SUBJECT: STATUS OF MISSION NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 233134, A-197 LIMA 9039

1. MISSION NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES HAVE SO FAR BEEN AIMED EXCLUSIVELY AT ENFORCEMENT ASPECT OF PROBLEM. IN THIS AREA WE HAVE BEEN REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL; DEA LIMA HAS BUILT UP EXCELLENT WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH PERUVIAN POLICE (PIP) AND SEIZURES AND ARRESTS HAVE SHOWN A MARKED INCREASE IN LAST TWO YEARS.

2. MISSION NARCOTICS ACTION PLAN (SEE REPAIR) AIMS AT INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS OF PIP, INITIALLY THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS IN LIMA METROPOLITAN AND NATIONWIDE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK. LATER, PLAN PROVIDES FOR GENERAL SUPPORT IN AREA OF EQUIPMENT TO INCREASE MOBILITY IN REMOTE AREAS.

3. AS A RESULT OF SUGGESTION MADE BY AMB. VANCE DURING HIS VISIT TO PERU, DEA LIMA IS NOW COORDINATING WITH PIP ON BEGINNING
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PLANS TO WORK IN SPECIFIC AREAS OF TINGO MARIA AND CUZCO, WHERE

AN ESTIMATED 90 PERCENT OF PERU'S COCA IS GROWN, AND LATER TO EXPAND OPERATIONS TO OTHER SPECIFIC TARGET AREAS. PURPOSE OF PROGRAM IS TO CREATE AN EFFECTIVE MOBILE FORCE TO STRIKE AT ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCTION, HOPING FOR EVENTUAL PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT OF PIP OFFICERS IN THOSE AREAS. ONCE PROGRAM IS WORKED OUT, MISSION PLANS TO SUBMIT IT TO WASHINGTON REQUESTING APPROPRIATE USG ASSISTANCE. IT IS ENVISIONED THAT THIS ASSISTANCE WILL INCLUDE VEHICLES FOR TRANSPORTATION E.G. JEEPS AND POSSIBLY RIVER BOATS, AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PER DIEM AND OTHER INVESTIGATIVE EXPENSES OF PIP.

4. PRESENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PER DIEM AND OTHER INVESTIGATIVE EXPENSES IS THE SINGLE MOST EFFECTIVE COMPONENT OF PLAN. IT ENABLES PIP TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS IN REMOTE AREAS WITHOUT PERSONAL FINANCIAL HARDSHIP TO INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS, AS VIRTUALLY NO GOP FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR GASOLINE, PER DIEM, ETC. THESE FUNDS PREVIOUSLY CAME FROM THE INDIVIDUAL OFFICER'S POCKET. MISSION STRONGLY URGES, AT THE VERY LEAST, CONTINUATION OF FUNDS AT PRESENT LEVEL AND, HOPEFULLY, AN INCREASE IN FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

5. ALSO DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF AMB. VANCE, MININTERIOR RICHTER VOICED HIS CONCERN RE INTERNATIONAL DRUG SITUATION, NOTING THAT IT IS NOT JUST A PROBLEM BUT ONE THAT ALSO AFFECTS PERU, A WELCOME CHANGE FROM ATTITUDE USUALLY EXPRESSED BY GOP OFFICIALS.

HE ALSO NOTED HIS SUPPORT FOR SUBSTITUTING FOOD CROPS FOR COCA. IN THIS AREA, PROVIDED THE GOP IMPROVES ITS INTERNAL COORDINATION ON COCA POLICY AND MAKES A FIRM COMMITMENT TO FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING, WE MAY BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN AREA OF STUDY GRANTS TO LOOK INTO CROP SUBSTITUTION POSSIBILITIES. THE MISSION ACTION PLAN CALLED FOR A CROP SUBSTITUTION STUDY THIS FISCAL YEAR. THIS WAS TABLED, HOWEVER, PRECISELY DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF A SUITABLE COMMITMENT AND INTERNAL COORDINATION ON PART OF GOP. SOME PROGRESS MAY EVENTUALLY BE POSSIBLE ON BOTH FRONTS, BASED ON MININTERIOR RICHTER'S RECENT COMMENTS. DEAN UNQTE INGERSOLL

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